

Layer by layer to the Croatian word *škriljavac*

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Abstract

The theme of this paper are the Croatian terms for schist – *škriljac*, *škriljevac* or *škriljavac*, and for schistose – *škriljav* or *škriljast*. Linguistic and professional sources are not uniformed, so from the aspect of word formation, it is discussed which terms fit into the terminological system the best.

Key words

schist, schistoid rock, schistose, word formation, terminology

1. Introduction

The first thought of mining work is usually associated with hard work and digging, but it is possible to dig through books and sometimes, finding the solution to a seemingly simple question of terminology, requires digging through many sources. Such a case arises in the Croatian term for schist (or sometimes slate) – *škriljavac* or *škriljevac*. It is a special field term but, like any other, it is not reserved only for special field use. Although general dictionaries show that this is not a widely used word (for example, *Rječnik hrvatskoga jezika* and *Hrvatski enciklopedijski rječnik* contain only three entries of the same origin: *škriljac*, *škriljavac* and *škriljevac*), in some larger dictionaries, we will find more words belonging to the same formative family. The Academy's dictionary includes: *škrila* (see *škrilja*), *škrilj*, *škrilja*, *škriljac*, *škriljanje*, *škriljati se*, *škriljav*, *škriljavac*, *škriljavost*, *škriljevac*, *škriljevina*, *škriljica*, *škriljičica*, *škriljina*, *škriljka*, and *Škok* in *Etimologijski rječnik* within the entry *škrilj* has *škriljica* and *škriljka*, *škriljevac*, *škrilja*, *škriljanje*, *škriljati se*.

However, this is the Mining-Geological-Petroleum Bulletin, so the focus will not be on *škriljanje*, the game of throwing flat stones, or on the formatively related verb *škriljati se*. The theme of this paper is the most appropriate Croatian term for the metamorphic rock with schistose texture – *škriljac*, *škriljavac* or *škriljevac*. Special field terminology is a part of standard language and it is better to avoid synonyms, as well as formative doublets. „Norming and normativity are features of a standard language, as well as of terminology since it is a part of a standard language. Norming assumes a conscious choice. In creating a scientific term, the terminology requirements, i.e. the coherence of the terminology with the scientific field (...), must be taken into account, as well as language requirements.” (Hudeček – Mihaljević 2009: 11).

2. Discussion

The proportion of examples with *škriljac* : *škriljavac* : *škriljevac* in the corpus of the Croatian language hrWac (which presents general language use) is 132 : 100 : 370. Linguistic resources are not uniform in this term. *Škriljavac* is considered better than *škriljevac* in *Jezični savjetnik s gramatikom* and *Hrvatski jezični savjetnik*. However, *Hrvatski enciklopedijski rječnik* under the entry *škriljac* gives *škriljavac* and in brackets *škriljevac*, while other sources favor *škriljevac*. In *Rječnik hrvatskoga jezika* a reference is made from *škriljac* and *škriljavac* to *škriljevac*. Web-encyclopedias from The Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography contain only *škriljevac*: *Hrvatska enciklopedija* has

the entries *škriljevci*, *biotitski škriljevac* ‘biotite shale’, *glineni škriljevac* ‘clay shale’, *kloritski škriljevac* ‘chloritic shale’, *naftni škriljevac* ‘oil shale’ and *uljni škriljevac* ‘oil shale’; *Proleksis* has *škriljevac*, *biotitski škriljevac*, *kloritski škriljevac*, *kristalični škriljevac* ‘crystal shale’ and *zeleni škriljevac* ‘greenschist’; *Hrvatski obiteljski leksikon* has the entries *glineni škriljevac* and *zeleni škriljevac*. However, *Hrvatska enciklopedija* and *Proleksis* use the term *škriljavost* for the property of splintering of those metamorphic rocks in which minerals with a layered structure dominate, visible to the naked eye. The adjective *škriljav* labeled with *min.* (mineralogy) comes in Šulek’s dictionary, but the rock is called *škriljevac*, and he gives several examples with linguistically interesting equivalents for multiword expressions: *krovni škriljevac* (*krovnjak*) ‘roofing slate’, *kloritni škriljevac* (*kloritovac*) ‘chloritic shale’, *kremeni škriljevac* (*buližnjak*) ‘quartz slate’, *laporni škriljevac* (*laporovac*) ‘marl slate’, and *pisaći škriljevac* ‘writing slate’.

Although, according to these sources, the form *škriljevac* has a certain advantage, and even *Etimologijski rječnik* states that the adjective is nominalized with „-*bc škriljevac*, gen. -*vca*”, the word-formation and formatively related forms must be further explored.

In Croatian, the suffix *-ac* comes very often (mostly with a fleeting vowel *a*: *sjeverac*, *sjeverca*... ‘north wind’, or, sometimes, with a fixed *a*: *tjesnac*, *tjesnaca* ‘narrow passage’), but the form *škriljac* is rare. The suffix *-evac* ends with *-ac*, but it is actually rarely a suffix, and that is not the formative model in the word *škriljevac*. **Babić** in *Tvorba* (2002: 91) brings only three words with *-evac*: *čajevac* ‘tea tree’, *franjevac* ‘Franciscan’ and *Prištევac* ‘inhabitant of Priština’. Examples that end with *-evac* (*Šubičevac* ‘city area in Šibenik’, *radičevac* ‘follower of Radić’...) actually belong to a different formative model: the suffix *-ac* is added to a possessive adjective (*Šubičev*, *Radičev*).

According to the Academy’s dictionary, *škrilj* (*škrilja*) is a plate, and according to *Etimologijski rječnik*, it is a kind of flat stone, so the possessive adjective *škriljev* is formed by adding the suffix *-ev* to the stem (which ends in a palatal *lj*), and further, by adding the suffix *-ac*, *škriljevac* is formed. This formative model was Šulek’s choice, which is confirmed in his terms *kloritovac*, *laporovac*. However, the adjective in his dictionary comes with an *a*: *škriljav*, as well as the noun *škriljavost*. Possessive suffixes (*-ov*, *-ev*, *-in*, *-ljev*) are usually added to nouns that refer to a person (*pjevačev* ‘singer’s’), or a plant (*jabukov* ‘apple’s’), an animal (*čukov* ‘owl’s’, *grizlijev* ‘grizzly’s’), material nouns, mostly chemical terms (*kisikov* ‘of oxygen’, *barijev* ‘of barium’, *natrijev* ‘of sodium’) etc., but they come with a remark: „As the examples show, this type of formation is not fixed, a large number of adjectives have a doublet with other suffixes, probably many others were not registered, and many can be easily formed (*jaspisni* ‘of jasper’, *lakmusni* ‘of litmus’, *barijski* ‘of barium’, *berilijski* ‘of beryllium’...). In order for vocabulary to stabilize in that area, in accordance with a systematic word-formation, whenever possible, preference should be given to adjectives with other suffixes (*-ni*, *-eni*, *-ski*).” (**Babić 2002: 396–397**). Some other inanimate nouns, which form adjectives with possessive suffixes, are also mentioned (*bojev* ‘of battle’, *kaljev* ‘of tiles’, *palčev* ‘of thumb’), but they also come with a remark: „Since these formations are not in accordance with the language system, whenever possible, adjectives with other relative suffixes or possessive genitive should be used.” (**Babić 2002: 397**).

According to the other formative model, the suffix *-av* is added to the stem *škrilj*, which gives an adjective with the meaning of fullness, abundance (‘which has a lot of plates’). The suffix *-ac* has a lot of meanings, it can refer to a person (*čupavac* ‘shaggy person’), an animal (*glavonožac* ‘cephalopod’), a plant (*kakaovac* ‘cocoa’) and many other things, including stone (*ljutac* ‘parent rock’, *tučenac* ‘rubble’, *vapnenac* ‘limestone’, *živac* ‘bedrock’) and mineral, ore (*glinenac* ‘feldspar’, *sinjavac* ‘tetrahedrite/tennantite’). In the description of the rock *škriljavac*, the adjective *škriljav* (not *škriljev*) is used, so it is consistent to use that stem in word-formation (the suffix *-ac* is added to the adjective *škriljav*). This is also consistent with the noun *škriljavost* ‘schistosity’ (which never comes with an *e*: *škriljevost*). In addition, this is consequent with other terms for minerals, registered in *Babić’s Tvorba*, such as *blistavac*, *sinjavac*. Besides the fact that according to *Tvorba* other suffixes have an advantage over possessive suffixes, *škriljavac* with an *a* fits into the formative and semantic string *škriljav* (which is layered, foliated, schistose) – *škriljavost* (the quality of something that is schistose) – *škriljavac* (schistose rock).

The technical term is optimal when it is in accordance with the system of the Croatian standard language but also with the system of a relevant scientific field. In geological and geographical literature, *škriljavac* is widespread: it can be found in Čedomir Benac’s *Rječnik pojmova u primijenjenoj geologiji i geološkom inženjerstvu*, in Miroslav Perić’s *Englesko-hrvatski enciklopedijski rječnik istraživanja u proizvodnji nafte i plina*, and in Alfonso Cvitanović’s *Geografski rječnik*, as well as in STRUNA, Croatian Special Field Terminology (<http://struna.ihj.hr/naziv/skriljavac/31725/#naziv>).

Word-formation is the area of creativity and must meet needs for naming new notions. New words are constantly being created. The list of words from dictionaries given at the beginning can be enriched with the adjective *škriljast* 'schistose'. It comes in expressions like *škriljasta stijena* 'schistose rock', *škriljasta struktura* 'schistose structure', *škriljasta glina* 'schistose clay'. Although this model of formation is valid (the suffix *-ast* is added to the stem *škrilj*), „in the standardization of terminology, one of the synonymous terms should be given priority over others” (**Hudeček – Mihaljević 2009: 69**). Unless there is a difference in meaning, the above mentioned string (*škriljav – škriljavac – škriljavost*) is an argument for *škriljav*. This is the principle used in Croatian word-formation in general: „The suffix *-ast* is primarily used to mark similarity (...). Adjectives formed with this suffix from verb stems have the meaning ‘the one that is present of a verb’: *bjelasast* ‘whitish’, *krivudast* ‘winding’, *lelujast* ‘waving’, *lepršast* ‘swaying’, *svjetlucast* ‘shimmering’, *vijugast* ‘curved’..., but they all have doublets with the suffix *-av*, which are more common, and mostly have recent corroborations. There is no semantic difference between them. Theoretically, there could be a difference in adjectives formed from different stems, e.g. *vijugast* ‘curved’ < *vijuga* ‘curve (noun)’, *vijugav* ‘curved’ < *vijugati* (*se*) ‘to curve’, but both of them come with the same nouns (street, track, road, path), which equalizes their meaning, and that makes one of them redundant. In accordance with the system, *vijugast* is left out.” (**Babić 2002: 468–469**).

3. Conclusion

The existence of synonymous terms in a terminological system is not good, so among terms and forms that refer to one notion, one of them should be preferred, and it should be the one which correspond the best to terminological principles. In the construction of terminology systems, some principles must be followed (see more in **Hudeček – Mihaljević 2009: 69–78**). In the context of the problems presented here, two of them are essential: „The more expanded and widely accepted term has priority over the less expanded one,” and „The term from which it is easier to form new words has priority over the one from which new words can not be created.“ Although in general usage and some language sources *škriljevac* prevails, in professional sources *škriljavac* prevails, and since requirements of professional terminology in the creation of scientific terminology should be taken into account, priority should be given to *škriljavac*. Besides, the term *škriljavac* makes a formative and semantic string with the words *škriljav* and *škriljavost*, which cannot be said for *škriljac* and *škriljevac*, and that also makes it a better choice from the aspect of terminology standardization. In describing rocks with the property of schistosity, the adjectives *škriljav* and *škriljast* are being used. Considering that *škriljav* has a larger formative potential than *škriljast* (*škriljavost* is widely used whereas *škriljastost* is not), *škriljav* is a better choice for terminology standardization.

4. References

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